

Appl. No. 10/037,395
Response dated July 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2003

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to return copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B filed on January 3, 2002 and to indicate thereon that the cited publications were considered and made of record.

Restriction was required under 35 USC 121 as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-9, drawn to support straps for supporting the ankles of the user;

Group II: Claims 10 and 13-17, drawn to bumpers located on the lateral sides of the outer surface of the shoe; and

Group III: Claims 11 and 18-20, drawn to a shoe with an upper having portions of different support.

It was stated in the Office Action that claim 12 appears to be a linking claim and will be examined with the elected Group.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1 to 9 and linking claim 12), with traverse.

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Claims 10 and 11 both depend on claim 3; claim 3 depends on claim 1. If claim 1 is allowed, claims 10 and 11 should therefore be joined with claim 1 and allowed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested for the following reasons.

All of the claims are directed to a stabilization device for an athletic shoe or sneaker to prevent ankle sprains.

All of the three Groups of claims were identically classified by the Examiner in class 36. It is therefore respectfully submitted that it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to examine all the present pending claims.

In view of the above, examination of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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